

Keep Hope Alive

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

1 EXT. ABANDONED LOT -- MORNING 1

An old beat up van is parked in an abandoned lot. A motley group of ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KIDS walk by on their way to school. One of them throws a rock at the van.

CUT TO:

2 INT. VAN -- CONTINUOUS 2

The back of the van appears empty as we hear the rock hit the side and JIMMY bolts up into frame. Jimmy is 25 and hungover. He yawns and goes to scratch his head revealing that an empty forty ounce bottle of beer is duct taped to his hand. He looks at it curiously and then sees that his other hand is taped to a bottle as well.

CUT TO:

3 EXT. ABANDONED LOT -- CONTINUOUS 3

We hear kicking against the inside of the van for a beat and then the door opens. On the sidewalk in front of the abandoned lot we see a cute woman in her early twenties, SABRINA, waiting for the bus in her IHOP waitress uniform. She hears the noise and looks over. Jimmy gets out the van, turns and tries to close the door with his feet. Eventually he succeeds. As Jimmy crosses to the sidewalk he notices Sabrina and makes his way over to her.

JIMMY

Hi.

SABRINIA

(beat)

Hello. Why do you have bottles taped to your hands?

JIMMY

I'm not sure. I'm actually heading to work and I'm hoping a guy there can answer that question.

The bus pulls up.

SABRINA

Good luck.

She starts to get on the bus.

JIMMY

Hey, uh... what's your name?

SABRINA

You just crawled out of a van and you don't know why you have bottles taped to your hands. I'm not going to tell you my name.

Sabrina gets on the bus.

JIMMY

I can't argue with that.

CUT TO:

4 EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET -- LATER

4

Jimmy approaches MIKE who putting supplies in the back of a truck that reads, "Pool Cleaning By Chance". Mike, an unkempt fairly oblivious guy in his early twenties, spots him.

MIKE

Jimmy, where you been? I bought you a breakfast taquito but I ate it, like, two houses ago. There's still half a Yoo Hoo and some circus peanuts in the truck if you're hungry.

JIMMY

Why do I have bottles taped to my hands?

MIKE

You don't remember? It was hilarious. I also put make-up on you. I had you telling everyone at the bar you were Edward Forty Hands.

Mike takes out an iPhone and shows it to Jimmy.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Check it out.

Mike plays a video of Jimmy drunk, wearing white make-up, mascara and black lipstick and drinking from the bottles taped to his hands.

JIMMY

How did I get the make-up off my face?

MIKE

Wait for it.

On the video we see Jimmy passed out as a big dog licks his face and mouth.

JIMMY

Gross.

(then)

Where did you get an apple phone?

MIKE

Found it. People keep calling and asking for Derek.

BURT CHANCE, a man in his early forties, comes out of the backyard carrying a pool skimmer.

BURT

Go home, Jimmy.

JIMMY

Why?

BURT

You're fired. Third time this week you're late and it's only Wednesday. Your drinking is becoming a problem.

JIMMY

What are you talking about? You were drinking with me. You made me have a chugging contest with you.

(re: Mike)

He was drinking too. He taped bottles to my hands.

BURT

But we made it to work on time, Jimmy. We can handle ourselves.

JIMMY

So you're firing me because I'm not as good of a functioning alcoholic as you?

BURT

Hey, watch the name calling. You're not an alcoholic if you can get to work on time.

Burt gets in the truck. Mike's iPhone rings.

MIKE

(into phone)

Hello.

(beat)

No he is not, can I take a message?

Mike gets in the truck and they drive off.

CUT TO:

5 EXT. CRAPPY HOUSE -- LATER

5

A little pink car that has "Merry Maids" on the side is sitting in front of a crappy little house. There are two Latina women in maids' uniforms in the front seat and one in the back. Jimmy walks up the sidewalk behind them, bottles still on his hands. The maid behind the wheel lays on the horn like it wasn't the first time. Jimmy's forty-one-year-old mother, VIRGINIA, exits the house through the screen door. She's wearing a maid's uniform and smoking.

VIRGINIA
(to herself)
Keep your skirt on.

JIMMY
Hey, Mom.

Jimmy walks past Virginia and towards the house.

VIRGINIA
What are you doing home?

JIMMY
I got fired.

VIRGINIA
(disgusted)
Unbelievable.
(then)
Don't touch the TV. I got the VCR
Plus set to record "Family Feud."

Virginia gets in the back seat of the car. She rolls down the window so she can smoke.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)
What the devil are you ladies in
such a hurry for? You know we're
going to scrub toilets, right?

She takes a drag and blows it out the window.

CUT TO:

6 INT. LIVING ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

6

Jimmy crosses through. We see a woman in her eighties, MAW MAW, sitting in a metal folding chair smoking a cigarette. She's wearing orange pants and a bra.

JIMMY
 You forgot your shirt again, Great
 Maw Maw.

MAW MAW
 (waves him off)
 Ahhhhhhhh.

Jimmy exits down the hall.

CUT TO:

7 INT. JIMMY'S BEDROOM -- LATER 7

The second verse of "Fortunate Son" by CCR plays as Jimmy enters and plops down on the bed. We TIME DISSOLVE to see him doing the following things throughout the day: he uses his teeth to get the bottles off his hands, he plays his acoustic guitar, he throws a tennis ball against the wall, he plays his acoustic guitar, he heats up a plate of marshmallows in a microwave; he puts one in his mouth but it's too hot, he plays his acoustic guitar, he plays an old Nintendo.

CUT TO:

8 INT. HOUSE -- LATER THAT NIGHT 8

Virginia, in a very casual outfit, bangs on Jimmy's door a few times. Jimmy answers wearing tighty-whities and large headphones that are connected to a stereo. He holds his acoustic guitar. We can hear the faint sound of a Michael McDonald song.

VIRGINIA
 Your father's home. Come eat.

CUT TO:

9 INT. KITCHEN -- MOMENTS LATER 9

Jimmy, now dressed, sits down at the table.

JIMMY
 Dad.

We see that his Dad is Burt, his boss that we met earlier.

BURT
 Jimmy.

Also at the table is Mike, Jimmy's cousin. Virginia puts down a frozen dinner in front of each of them. Burt and Mike also have beers in front of them. Burt picks up the salt and salts his food for a long time.

BURT (CONT'D)

(re: Mike)

Your cousin and I had to work our tails off without your help today.

JIMMY

I didn't tell you to fire me.

BURT

(mocking)

I didn't tell you to fire me.

Maw Maw, with a shirt on, walks through the kitchen smoking a cigarette. She crosses to the fridge.

VIRGINIA

You gonna eat with us, Maw Maw?

MAW MAW

(waves her off)

Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhh.

Maw Maw grabs a jar of pickles out of the fridge and exits.

BURT

Why do you make your grandmother a dinner every night? All that crazy bat ever eats is pickles.

VIRGINIA

Shhhhhhhh. You better watch your tongue if you want her to leave us this house after God takes her.

Virginia takes Maw Maw's dinner and her own to the sink, dumping out all but the two bites she took.

BURT

I wish He would hurry up and do it. How long can a eighty-five-year-old woman live on pickles and nicotine?

Virginia opens the freezer. The inside of the freezer is mostly built up frost on the sides.

VIRGINIA

Doggone-it. We're out of bubble gum ice cream. Burt you gotta go to the store.

BURT

I'm not driving anywhere. I'm knee deep into a twelve pack.

VIRGINIA

Well, I'm not going. I'm already in my house clothes for the night. But somebody needs to get me my ice cream or I'm gonna be in a mood.

Virginia exits.

VIRGINIA (O.S.)

Maw Maw, put that down. That's not food.

Burt looks at Mike.

BURT

Is your driver's license still suspended?

MIKE

Yep. They won't even tell me for how long until they pull that jeep I hit out of the lake. I told them no one was in it but--

The iPhone sitting on the table rings. Mike pushes the speaker phone button.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Hello?

DEREK (O.S.)

Hello? Who is this? You've got my phone.

MIKE

Oh, hi Derek.

(pulls out a piece of paper)

Listen, your dentist called to remind you you have an appointment on Monday and Jill needs you to call her A-S-A...

(looking at the paper)

I think that's a B or a T.

DEREK (O.S.)

Thanks. Can I get my phone back?

MIKE

Mmmmmmmmm, yeah, I don't see that happening.

Mike hangs up the phone. Burt turns to Jimmy.

BURT

Will you go get your mother's ice cream? I don't feel like dealing with her tonight.

JIMMY

Can I have my job back?

BURT

(beat)

Fine.

Jimmy gets up and exits. After a beat the iPhone rings.

MIKE

I'm gonna let voicemail get that.

CUT TO:

10 INT. VAN -- LATER

10

Tight on a quart of bubble gum ice cream on the dash. We widen to see Jimmy driving. He pops in a cassette tape.

JIMMY

(singing)

*Meet me in the middle of the night,
let me hear you say, everything's
all right. Let me smell the moon in
your perfume.*

He stops at a stop sign and a woman in her thirties, LUCY, frantically runs in front of the van and hops in.

LUCY

Drive, drive, drive, drive, drive!

Jimmy takes off, looks to see what they are running from and spots a GUY running after them.

JIMMY

(panicked)

Who is that guy?

Lucy scurries to the back of the van and looks out the window.

LUCY

Nice try, jerk!

JIMMY

Is he gone? What's happening? What's going on? What, what's going on... right here. Hello?

Lucy comes back to the front of the van.

LUCY
Oh, my god. This is so crazy. You
like, saved my life!

JIMMY
Really? I... what?

LUCY
You totally just saved my life!

JIMMY
Wow.

CUT TO:

11 EXT. JIMMY'S HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS 11
Jimmy pulls into his yard and parks.

CUT TO:

12 INT. VAN -- CONTINUOUS 12
High on adrenaline, Lucy stares at Jimmy.

LUCY
You're like a hero. And you're cute.

JIMMY
Really?

LUCY
Yeah. You saved my life and you're
cute.

She pulls Jimmy into the back of the van. He smiles.

JIMMY
Well, this is fantastic.

She pulls him out of frame. After a beat, a pair of jeans
knocks the ice cream off the dash. We're tight on the ice
cream as it melts while the sun comes up. The camera pulls
back and Jimmy sits up into frame. His hair is a mess. He
looks to see that he's alone.

CUT TO:

13 EXT. VAN/JIMMY'S FRONT YARD -- MOMENTS LATER 13
Jimmy opens the door, comes out and looks around confused.

CUT TO:

14 INT. JIMMY'S HOUSE -- MOMENTS LATER

14

Still waking up, Jimmy comes in the front door to find Lucy sitting at the table with Mike and Burt watching the news. Virginia is cooking breakfast. Mike is staring at Lucy.

LUCY

There's the hero.

VIRGINIA

Pull up a chair, sleepy head. Your new friend's been explaining the news to us.

BURT

She can pronounce that nutty Iran guy's name. Say it again.

LUCY

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

VIRGINIA

You got a smart one here, Jimmy.

JIMMY

(still confused)

Yeah.

MIKE

She's pretty too.

LUCY

(embarrassed)

Stop it.

Mike takes a picture with Lucy with his iPhone. Jimmy looks over to see that it's one of many that Mike is scrolling through. Jimmy smacks him.

JIMMY

Stop it.

LUCY

Virginia, do you mind if I use your bathroom?

VIRGINIA

Last door on the left. If you're doing big business you gotta flush twice and you can't be running the sink during the second flush or you're gonna have to give it a third go round.

(MORE)

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

And the good liquid hand soap is under the sink cause the cat used to knock it over all the time. The cat died but I still keep it under there to remind me of her.

(fondly)

Calico. Would cuddle right up next to you.

LUCY

Got it.

(to Jimmy)

Be right back.

Lucy gives Jimmy a very long kiss as everyone stares. Jimmy's eyes are open and he's very aware of everyone in the room. Finally she exits to the bathroom, smacking him on the butt as she goes.

BURT

(calling)

Say it again.

LUCY (O.S.)

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Burt nods, impressed. Virginia dumps some bacon out of a frying pan onto Burt's plate.

VIRGINIA

I like her, Jimmy.

(don't mess it up)

I like her a lot.

JIMMY

Did she mention what her name was or who that guy was that was chasing her last night?

Burt puts some bacon in his mouth but it's too hot.

BURT

Ow. She said you guys met at the store. Said she dropped her groceries and you helped her pick 'em up.

Burt goes to eat the bacon again.

BURT (CONT'D)

Ow.

JIMMY

She said what?

Mike points to the TV that's behind Jimmy.

MIKE

Her name's Lucy.

Jimmy turns to look at the TV. Lucy's picture is on the screen with her name under it, Lucy Carlyle.

NEWSCASTER

This morning police are searching for this woman, Lucy Carlyle aka Joan Doyle aka Selma Wrightsdale. Carlyle, is wanted for murder in multiple cases.

We see a POLICEMAN being interviewed.

POLICEMAN

She kills her boyfriends. Two so far. We've been trying to catch her but she keeps changing her name. She's tricky.

On the TV we see an interview of the man who was chasing Lucy when Jimmy picked her up.

MAN

She snuck up behind me and tried to choke me with a pair of shoelaces. She was screaming something about how I forgot her birthday. Luckily the shoelaces broke. I chased her for a few blocks but then she jumped into van with some guy.

(into camera)

Good luck, dude. Her birthday is May 12th. I'd buy a card now.

The newscaster address the camera. In the house we hear a flush. Everyone stares at each other for a beat.

NEWSCASTER

Anyone with information about the whereabouts of Lucy Carlyle should contact police immediately.

We hear a second flush.

NEWSCASTER (CONT'D)

And remember, she may look sweet but she is extremely dangerous.

Lucy enters and sits back down at the table next to Jimmy. She starts to eat her breakfast.

NEWSCASTER (CONT'D)

And in lighter news, a small time crook with a long list of wrongs he was making amends for has finally finished. And you'll never guess how it ended.

Virginia picks up the little TV and smashes it over Lucy's head. She goes down.

VIRGINIA

(calm)

Call the police.

CUT TO:

15 INT. PRISON -- SIX MONTHS LATER -- DAY

15

CYRON: SIX MONTHS LATER. Jimmy walks down the hall with a female guard, DANA.

DANA

First time on death row?

JIMMY

Yeah. It smells...?

DANA

Pretty good, huh?

JIMMY

Yeah. Really good. What is that?

DANA

Death.

(beat)

Just kidding. We share a vent with the bakery.

JIMMY

Oh, yeah, that's right. They make those cookies here. They're good.

DANA

Yep. They let us take home the broken ones. Big trash bags full of 'em.

They stop at a door and Dana opens the slot. After seeing an empty cell for a beat, Lucy pops her head in the hole.

LUCY

Hey sweetie.

JIMMY

Hey.

LUCY
You miss me?

JIMMY
Uh, yeah. Yeah, sure. Is that what
you needed to talk about?

A buzzer sounds.

LUCY
Recess!

JIMMY
What?

Dana starts to unlock the door. Jimmy backs away.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
What are you doing?

DANA
She gets an hour a day to exercise
in the cage.

The door opens and Lucy faces away so Dana can cuff her.

LUCY
An hour? You better check with the
warden. I get an hour and a half.

Lucy turns revealing that she's six months pregnant.

LUCY (CONT'D)
An hour for me, and a half hour for
me and Jimmy's baby.

Lucy crosses off. Jimmy is confused.

DANA
From the look on you face I'm gonna
be guessing you're Jimmy.

CUT TO:

16 EXT. PRISON EXERCISE CAGE -- LATER

16

Lucy is inside the cage doing deep knee bends. Jimmy watches.

LUCY
I don't expect anything from you. I
just wanted you to know you were
gonna be a dad. I thought that was
the right thing to do. I may have
killed a couple old boyfriends but
I'm not a monster.

Lucy starts to do lunges and Jimmy walks with her long the outside of the cage. He moves up and down as she does.

JIMMY

Well, I appreciate you not expecting anything from me. Not that I don't want to have a baby one day. I do. But not until I get a record deal. I play the guitar. I've written a bunch of songs but I can't seem to master playing and singing at the same time. It's actually harder than it looks. It's like rubbing your stomach and patting your head. Anyway, point is, I'm not ready for a baby right now.

LUCY

Tell me about it. If I was on the outside I'd be screwed. Luckily women have babies in here all the time. They got a nursery, cribs, clothes... Prison babies got it made.

Lucy gets up and steps closer to Jimmy.

LUCY (CONT'D)

And you know what the best part of it is? I'm supposed to get the electric chair in eleven months. But that was before they knew I was pregnant.

(smiles)

No way they're killing a mother of a eight-month-old baby.

CUT TO:

17 INT. PRISON -- DAY

17

Jimmy has an EIGHT-MONTH-OLD BABY in a Baby Bjorn. The camera circles him revealing that he is in a room across from Lucy who is in an electric chair. As the camera pans around him, we lose sight of Lucy and land back on Jimmy. We hear a buzzing and Jimmy covers the baby's eyes as he averts his own.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

18 INT. PRISON -- CONTINUOUS

18

We hear the electric chair buzzing. Still covering the baby's eyes, Jimmy looks down at the floor. The buzzing stops. Jimmy looks up and his eyes go wide. She's alive. A little smoke comes from the top of her head.

LUCY

Whooooooooooooo! How bout that people!? How about that?!

(singing Pearl Jam)

*Whoa, I, I, I, I'm still alive, yeah,
I, I, I, I'm still alive.*

Jimmy is perplexed.

CUT TO:

19 INT. PRISON OFFICE -- LATER

19

Jimmy sits across from the warden who is on the phone. A female office holds the baby. Through glass we can see Lucy sitting in another room. Her hair is a little burnt.

WARDEN

(calm)

And who is supposed to double check that?

(beat)

Figures.

(laughs)

No, no, you can't fire family.
Alright. Don't worry about it.
We'll get the next one.

Warden hangs up the phone.

WARDEN (CONT'D)

The wires were loose. She didn't get enough wattage to do the job.

JIMMY

So what happens now? You gonna twist the wires together and take another shot at it? I got pliers in my van.

Lucy bangs on the glass. The warden hits a button on a speaker on the desk.

LUCY

I see you talking in there. Just in case you're thinking about flicking the switch again you might want to check the case of Willie Francis, Louisiana, 1946. After his botched execution his attorney Bertand DeBlanc argued that a second attempt would be cruel and unusual punishment. Went all the way to the Supreme Court. They ruled against him five to four, but that was before we had female justices. No way Ginsburg and Sotomayor let me fry twice.

The warden turns off the speaker.

WARDEN

She spends a lot of time in the prison library. And she may be right. The lawyers are gonna have a field day on this one. In the meantime she's not going anywhere. You just worry about taking care of your baby.

The female officer brings the baby to Jimmy.

JIMMY

I still have to take it?

WARDEN

Well, you don't have to. But she did sign over custody to you.

Jimmy looks at the baby. Lucy sees what's going on and bangs on the glass. The warden pushes the button on the speaker.

LUCY

Don't you take that baby. That's my baby. God saved me for a reason and I'm pretty sure it was to raise that baby. She belongs with her mother, in prison.

The warden turns off the speaker and Lucy continues to bang on the window.

WARDEN

It's your call.

Jimmy looks at the baby for a beat, as Lucy continues to bang on the glass in the background.

CUT TO:

20 INT. LIVING ROOM -- MORNING

20

We see the baby lying on the couch and then we see Jimmy, Mike, Virginia and Burt staring down at her.

MIKE

What's it's name?

JIMMY

She named it Princess Beyonce but I think I might change that.

VIRGINIA

(shaking her head)

Jimmy, Jimmy, Jimmy, Jimmy, Jimmy.
A baby. Good Lord.

(deep sigh)

You know where to get rid of it don't you?

JIMMY

What do you mean get rid of it?

Virginia crosses to another part of the room and sits down in a chair. Jimmy follows her. Burt sits down in a chair.

VIRGINIA

You can leave it at the Fire Station.
They won't even ask any questions.
I heard there's a cashier down at
the dog track that drops off babies
at that place like dry cleaning.

BURT

Is it Joan?

VIRGINIA

April.

MIKE

This baby is pretty light.

Jimmy looks over to see that Mike has lifted the baby up by one foot. Jimmy crosses to him and puts the baby back on the couch.

JIMMY

Put her down. Put her down. Don't touch her. You are not allowed to touch her.

Maw Maw walks through eating a pickle. She's only wearing pants and a bra again.

VIRGINIA
Shirt, Maw Maw.

MAW MAW
(waves her off)
Ahhhhhhhhh.

Maw Maw spots the baby and looks at it.

MAW MAW (CONT'D)
Who's is this?

JIMMY
Mine.

Maw Maw laughs and leans down to the baby.

MAW MAW
(whispers)
Good luck, Baby. You're gonna need it.

Maw Maw exits.

JIMMY
Mom, I'm not getting rid of my daughter. If I didn't want her I could have left her at the prison.

BURT
You could've left it there and you brought it home? What's wrong with you?

JIMMY
It's a prison. And her mother is a murderer. Call me crazy, but I thought she might be a little better off with me.

VIRGINIA
You can't keep it, Jimmy. A baby will dramatically change your life. How are you going to feed it, do you have any baby food? Do you have clothes for it? I bet you don't even know where to go to get reasonably priced portraits.

JIMMY
I'll figure all that out. I just got her like an hour ago.

BURT

How did you even get it home? You don't have a special seat.

JIMMY

I put her in the bean bag in the back of the van and drove real slow.

BURT

(makes sense)

Oh, okay.

JIMMY

But I'm gonna get one of those special seats for her. I'm gonna get her lots of baby things.

VIRGINIA

With what money?

JIMMY

I'll trade my stuff for it. Pawn shop's full of baby crap. I just need someone to watch her for like an hour and I'll be right back.

VIRGINIA

You're not leaving that baby here.

JIMMY

I have to. I don't want to drive with her again until I get the special seat. Even driving slow, the bean bag slid around a lot on turns.

VIRGINIA

We're not helping you with this, Jimmy. That's the only way you'll realize it's a stupid idea and go drop it at the fire station.

MIKE

Or you could sell it. I know a guy who would totally buy it.

JIMMY

I'm not selling my daughter. Seriously, someone has to watch her.

BURT

You should have thought about that
before you brought it home.

CUT TO:

21 EXT. STREET -- DAY

21

Jimmy walks down the street with a shopping cart and holding a brown paper bag. In the cart and on the bottom rack is his acoustic guitar, his microwave, his Nintendo, his stereo and some other items. Also in the shopping cart, lying on some blankets is Princess Beyonce. He spots the cute waitress, Sabrina, at the bus stop and stops.

JIMMY

Hi.

SABRINA

(thrown)

Hello.

Sabrina looks into the shopping cart and sees Princess Beyonce. She's concerned.

SABRINA (CONT'D)

Why is there a baby in your shopping
cart?

JIMMY

I can't hold her and push it at the
same time.

SABRINA

Are you homeless?

JIMMY

No.

SABRINA

Whose baby is that?

JIMMY

It's mine. I just don't have a
regular baby pusher thing yet because
I just got her a few hours ago.

SABRINA

(not convinced)

Okay.

Princess Beyonce starts to cry. Jimmy reaches in the paper bag and takes out a yellow rubber glove filled with milk. He puts it in Princess Beyonce's mouth and she sucks on it.

JIMMY

I don't have a bottle yet. It's a clean glove. Right out of the package.

Sabrina just stares.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

(beat)

It was a drinking prank, by the way. Edward Forty Hands.

SABRINA

Excuse me?

JIMMY

The bottles I had taped to my hands. It was a... it was about a year or so ago... you were at this bus stop right here...

(re: vacant lot)

I got out of a...

(realizing)

you don't remember.

SABRINA

No.

The bus pulls up.

SABRINA (CONT'D)

Just promise me that's your baby.

JIMMY

I promise.

As Sabrina backs onto the bus she takes a picture of Jimmy with her phone in case he's a kidnapper.

CUT TO:

22 INT. HOUSE -- LATER

22

Virginia is vacuuming and two other maids are also cleaning. A third maid, ISABELLE, is on the couch with her feet up and reading The New Yorker. Virginia's cell phone rings.

VIRGINIA

Hello?

(beat)

You're kidding me.

(beat)

You're lucky it was my turn to drive today.

Virginia hangs up the phone.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)
 I gotta take a twenty. Sorry
 Isabelle, you can have my relaxing
 time when we're at the Dixon's house.

As Virginia exits, Isabelle glares at her as she deliberately slams the magazine on the coffee table.

CUT TO:

23 EXT. PAWN SHOP -- LATER

23

Jimmy is sitting on the curb with a bunch of used baby stuff. He's reading a copy of "What to Expect In The First Year." Princess Beyonce is in the stroller playing with a toy, which she drops. Jimmy gives it back to her and she smiles. He smiles back. Virginia pulls up in a 1964 Dodge Dart.

CUT TO:

24 INT. VIRGINIA'S CAR -- LATER

24

The car is still parked and Virginia is behind the wheel. Princess Beyonce is in the car seat in the back behind the passenger seat. The trunk is open. Virginia looks at Princess Beyonce and shakes her head. The trunk closes revealing Jimmy. He hops in the front seat.

JIMMMY
 (putting on his
 seatbelt)
 Thanks for picking me up. Somebody
 totally stole my shopping cart.
 (then)
 Guess what? She smiled at me. She
 dropped her toy and she couldn't
 reach it so I picked it up for her
 and she totally smiled at me. It
 was like she knew I was there to
 take care of her. Pretty cool, huh?

VIRGINIA
 Congratulations. Your arms are longer
 than hers.

Virginia starts to drive.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)
 I knew I was going to get snookered
 into this. I do not have time for a
 baby in my life, Jimmy.
 (MORE)

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

Between holding down a job and doing my church work, I barely find time to spoil myself with a few cocktails and some socializing.

JIMMY

It's one time. I won't bother you again. Now that I got the car seat it's safe to have her in my van.

VIRGINIA

Your van doesn't have a back seat. Where are you gonna strap it in?

JIMMY

What do you mean "strap it in"?

Virginia makes a left hand turn which causes the unstrapped car seat to tumble across the back seat and onto the floor.

CUT TO:

25 INT. VIRGINIA'S CAR -- MOMENTS LATER

25

Jimmy is in the back seat. The car seat is back upright and Princess Beyonce is fine.

JIMMY

She's fine. She's totally fine.

VIRGINIA

I can't believe you didn't strap it in.

JIMMY

I just thought you had to strap the baby into the seat. Not the seat to the car. I don't know how this stuff works.

VIRGINIA

You know how gravity works, don't you?

Virginia starts to drive the car.

JIMMY

Shut up. She's fine. She didn't even cry. And don't try and act all smart. The only reason you knew to strap it in is because you already had a baby.

VIRGINIA

That's not true. We didn't have those kinds of safety things when you were a baby.

JIMMY

What are you talking about? They had car seats twenty-five years ago.

VIRGINIA

I didn't say they didn't have them. I said we didn't have them.

Virginia reaches to adjust the side view mirror.

CUT TO:

26 INT. CAR -- DAY -- 1988

26

Tight on the side view mirror as a hand moves it towards the driver. We see a reflection of a A TEENAGE VIRGINIA who is driving the same car. A TEENAGE BURT rides in the passenger seat drinking a beer. THREE-YEAR-OLD JIMMY is jumping around in the back seat. Virginia is preoccupied with looking at herself in the mirror.

BURT

Virginia, car!

Virginia swerves and three-year-old Jimmy falls onto the floor of the back seat.

VIRGINIA

Jimmy, be careful you don't fall in the hole.

We see three-year-old Jimmy lying on the floor with his head next to a hole in the floor boards. Then from underneath the car we see him sticking his head through the hole. He lowers it lower and lower until it's an inch from the road.

CUT TO:

27 INT. VIRGINIA'S CAR -- BACK TO PRESENT

27

Everyone is where we left them. Virginia is still smoking.

JIMMY

I can't believe I'm still alive.

VIRGINIA

Don't judge me. Your daughter just did a triple lindy across the back seat. You don't exactly know what you're doing either.

Virginia stops the car.

JIMMY

Why are we stopping?

VIRGINIA

Jimmy, you can't keep that baby.
You gotta safe drop it.

Jimmy looks to see that they are parked in front of the Fire Station. There is a safe drop baby sign on the front.

JIMMY

I'm not safe dropping my baby.

VIRGINIA

You don't know what you're doing.

JIMMY

(re: book)

I'm learning. And the more I read
the more I realize all the stuff you
did wrong. You know you're not
supposed to smoke around babies?

VIRGINIA

That's only when you're pregnant,
stupid. And I don't believe that
anyway. I smoked with you and you're
fine.

JIMMY

Fine? I had asthma for the first
seventeen years of my life, I've got
seven permanent teeth that still
haven't come in and I'm allergic to
fruit. How can you say I'm fine?

Virginia stares at him for a beat, then throws the car into gear and starts driving.

VIRGINIA

You know, you complain a lot. That's
an annoying habit. No one likes to
listen to people complain all the
time. And you're not allergic to
fruit, it just makes your throat
itch and your skin a little bumpy.

JIMMY
Just drop us off at work.

CUT TO:

28 EXT. BACKYARD -- LATER

28

Burt is cleaning a pool. Mike is mixing and pouring chemicals in the pool. Jimmy enters pushing Princess Beyonce in a stroller and carrying the car seat.

BURT
You're late.

JIMMY
I hit a few snags.

Jimmy puts the car seat down and pulls the shade over the stroller to protect Princess Beyonce from the sun.

BURT
Well, grab a skimmer and start getting these leaves out of here.

He does.

MIKE
Hey, Jimmy. You ever worry that thing is gonna grow up to be like her mother? All crazy. Murdering people and junk.

JIMMY
No, I don't worry about that.

As they talk Jimmy fishes leaves out of the pool with the skimmer; a net on a long metal pole. Unbeknownst to Jimmy, the other end of the pole pokes into the inside of the stroller. From inside the stroller we can see that it just misses Princess Beyonce's head before he pulls it back out.

MIKE
I'd worry about that. I'd worry about that a lot. Like, every time I looked at her. Which, actually, is what I do.

Jimmy pulls more leaves out of the pool. The back of the pole enters the stroller and just misses Princess Beyonce's head on the other side.

JIMMY
That's because you think too much, Mike. It makes you crazy.

MIKE

Thinking too much doesn't make you
crazy. Crazy is a hermetitary thing.

Jimmy pulls more leaves from the pool and the back of the pole enters the stroller. This time Princess Beyonce grabs it. Jimmy walks down the side of the pool not knowing that he's pulling the stroller towards the pool as he goes.

JIMMY

Maybe she'll be smart. Her mom might be crazy but she's also smart. Maybe she'll get none of the crazy and all of the smart. Her little brain could be working on the cure cancer for all we know.

As he walks down the side of the pool the stroller goes into the pool. Jimmy turns, see this and dives into the pool.

CUT TO:

29 INT. BURT'S TRUCK -- LATER

29

Princess Beyone is fine. She is soaking wet and sitting in her car seat in the back seat next to Mike. Burt drives. Jimmy, also soaking wet, is sitting shotgun. They all sit in silence for a beat.

BURT

You're gonna go to jail if you kill that baby. You know that, right?

JIMMY

I know.

MIKE

I'm dying back here. Can we turn on the air conditioning?

JIMMY

There's a wet baby in the back seat. We're not turning on the air conditioning.

Mike looks at the baby for a beat.

MIKE

You're turning out to be kind of a high maintenance little bitch aren't you, Princess Beyonce?

CUT TO:

30 INT. LIVING ROOM -- LATER

30

Burt, Virginia and Maw Maw are playing cards. Mike is listening to his iPhone on the couch. Princess Beyonce is lying on the floor. Jimmy enters drying his hands.

MAW MAW

Your baby stinks.

JIMMY

What?

VIRGINIA

Your baby stinks.

Jimmy gets closer and smells her.

JIMMY

Oh, wow. Alright, I'll change her. I knew I'd have to do this sooner or later. No big deal.

Jimmy holds her up and tries to keep her away from his face. He passes Mike.

MIKE

Dude, that's awful. What did you feed it?

JIMMY

Mom and I stopped off at High's and we all shared a Mountain Dew and a bowl of chili.

(to Virginia)

You said it would be fine.

Jimmy exits.

VIRGINIA

(calling after him)

It is fine. What did you expect, her poop not to stink?

BURT

I thought you were only supposed to give babies sodas that don't have the caffeine in 'em.

VIRGINIA
 Oh please. That's just what the
 people at 7UP want you to believe.

Virginia lays down a card.

CUT TO:

31 INT. JIMMY'S BEDROOM -- MOMENTS LATER 31

Jimmy enters carrying Princess Beyonce. He puts her down on the bed which he has converted into a crib by putting milk crates against the sides that aren't pushed up against the wall. He inspects the diaper that she's wearing.

JIMMY
 Okay, looks like we just use this
 sticky tape on the sides. Shouldn't
 be too hard.

Jimmy pulls the tape off the dirty diaper and pulls it down. Upon seeing and smelling the contents in the diaper he immediately throws up on Princess Beyonce's chest.

CUT TO:

32 INT. LIVING ROOM -- DAY 32

Everyone is where we left them. Jimmy hurries in. We hear Princess Beyonce crying from the bedroom.

JIMMY
 (frantic)
 I need paper towels, I need paper
 towels, I need paper towels.

He heads into the kitchen.

VIRGINIA
 What happened?

JIMMY (O.S.)
 I threw up on the baby.

VIRGINIA
 You what?

Jimmy hurries back down the hall with a long trail of paper towels.

JIMMY
I threw up on the baby.

CUT TO:

33 INT. JIMMY'S BEDROOM -- CONTINUOUS 33

Jimmy comes in and tries to wipe the baby off without looking at or smelling the puke and crap. He gags as he does. Virginia enters.

VIRGINIA
You have got to be kidding me. How
in the world...

Virginia sees the mess and throws up on her as well.

CUT TO:

34 INT. LIVING ROOM -- LATER 34

Jimmy enters with Princess Beyonce wrapped in a towel. She's clean and happy. Burt and Virginia are back playing cards. Mike is still on the couch.

JIMMY
All clean. And the book says a good
bedtime for this age is 7:30 so, off
we go. I'll see you guys in a few
minutes. Deal me in the next hand.

CUT TO:

35 INT. JIMMY'S BEDROOM -- 1:36 A.M. 35

Jimmy paces with a crying Princess Beyonce. The alarm clock reads 1:36. Virginia opens the door and sticks her head in.

VIRGINIA
Jimmy, people have to get up and go
to work tomorrow. You gotta get
that baby to shut up now.

JIMMY
(sarcastic)
Already? Please, Mom, let me play
with it for five more minutes?
Please.

Virginia shuts the door.

CUT TO:

36 INT. JIMMY'S BEDROOM -- LATER 36

The alarm clock reads 2:49. Jimmy paces with a crying Princess Beyonce. Burt sticks his head in. Makes a pose as if to say, "Are you kidding me with this."

JIMMY

I'm doing the best I can, Dad.

CUT TO:

37 INT. JIMMY'S BEDROOM -- LATER 37

Jimmy paces with a crying Princess Beyonce. Mike sticks his head in and holds up his iPhone showing the time.

MIKE

Four-thirty, dude. Four-thirty.
Still haven't slept.

JIMMY

Don't know what to tell you. Why don't you move your tent out of the laundry room and put it in the front yard?

MIKE

I think it's too cold.

Mike listens to Princess Beyonce for a beat.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Maybe if she hears how annoying it sounds she'll stop. Waaaaaaaaaaaa.
Waaaaaaaaaaaa. Waaaaaaaaaaaa.

JIMMY

(snapping)

Mike, you're not helping.

CUT TO:

38 INT. JIMMY'S BEDROOM -- LATER 38

The clock says 5:48. Jimmy is walking back and forth with a crying Princess Beyonce.

JIMMY

Listen, I'm gonna put you back on the bed but only because if I don't
(MORE)

JIMMY (CONT'D)

I'm afraid I'm gonna drop you. My arms are so tired. I don't lift weights. This is hard for me.

He puts Princess Beyonce back in the crib and she continues to cry. He straightens out his arms very slowly and in pain.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Ahhhhhhhhhh.

Virginia and Burt enter. Burt is half asleep and carrying an acoustic guitar. Burt sits on a chair and Virginia crosses to the bed.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

Virginia waves Jimmy off and leans over the bed. Burt starts to play the guitar.

VIRGINIA

(sings)

People smile and tell me I'm the lucky one,

(to Jimmy)

This used to work with you.

(singing)

...and we've just begun, Think I'm gonna have a son.

(to Jimmy)

Dim the lights.

Jimmy does.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

(singing)

He will be like he and me, as free as a dove, conceived in love, Sun is gonna shine above.

Princess Beyonce stops crying. Impressed, Jimmy tries to look but Virginia pushes him back. She motions for him to leave the room. He watches her as he goes.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

And even though we ain't got money, I'm so in love with you honey, And everything will bring a chain of love.

Virginia puts her hand on the baby.

CUT TO:

39 INT. SAME BEDROOM -- NIGHT -- 1984 39

We are tight on the baby as a hand touches it. It's BABY JIMMY. We widen to see that TEENAGE VIRGINIA is singing to Baby Jimmy. TEENAGE BURT plays the guitar nearby. The room is dressed differently.

VIRGINIA

*And in the morning when I rise, you
bring a tear of joy to my eyes, and
tell me everything is gonna be
alright.*

CUT TO:

40 INT. BEDROOM -- BACK TO SCENE 40

Jimmy watches Virginia rub Princess Beyonce's back as Burt continues to play softly on the guitar. She turns and sees that Jimmy is still there. She motions with her hand for him to leave. He does.

CUT TO:

41 EXT. HOUSE -- LATER 41

Jimmy sits on the porch. Virginia comes out and sits down as well.

VIRGINIA

She's asleep.

JIMMY

Thanks.

VIRGINIA

You ready to admit you're not cut out for this?

JIMMY

It was the first day. I'm not dropping her off at the fire station after one day. What makes you so sure someone else can do better than me anyway?

VIRGINIA

Jimmy, you almost killed it twice and we both threw up on it.

(MORE)

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

I'm not sure that baby wouldn't be better off being raised by a rabid pack of pedophile meth-heads.

Burt comes out of the house with two mugs of coffee. He gives one to Virginia.

JIMMY

If giving away your baby is such a good idea, why didn't you guys do it when you had me? You didn't know what you were doing. Why did you keep me?

VIRGINIA

Because we were stupid. And selfish. We should have given you away. You probably would have had a better life.

BURT

Probably would have graduated high school. Gone to college.

VIRGINIA

Maybe you'd even be able to eat fruit.

They sit for a beat.

JIMMY

Yeah, well, I like my life. And fruit's overrated anyway. It's mostly sugar. That's what the baby book says. Vegetables. That's what you're supposed to eat.

VIRGINIA

Ugh. I don't eat nothing that comes out of the ground. That's just dirty.

They sit for a bet.

JIMMY

I can't do this without you guys.

VIRGINIA

It's not that we don't want to help you, Jimmy. We can't. We don't know what we're doing either.

JIMMY

It sure looked like you knew what you were doing in there.

VIRGINIA

We sang a song. Anyone can sing a song. Charles Manson can sing a song.

BURT

He's actually pretty darn good. Mike has his album.

VIRGINIA

He is good. But that doesn't mean you want him helping you raise your child.

(then)

Jimmy, what is it with this baby? Are you afraid people are gonna look at you differently if you give it away? No one's gonna look at you any differently. No one expects you to take care of it.

JIMMY

That's the problem, Mom. I want people to look at me differently. I'm sick of people looking at me like I don't have a purpose. I want people to look at me like that baby does. Like I'm someone special. This is chance for me to do something good.

(beat)

It's a chance for all of us to do something good.

Virginia and Burt share a look.

VIRGINIA

Well, always did think I could have done better with a girl.

BURT

And they do say you learn by your mistakes. We've already made every mistake there is.

Virginia and Burt chuckle. Jimmy waits for an answer.

VIRGINIA

What are we gonna name it? I'm not taking my granddaughter to church with a name like Princess Beyonce.

JIMMY

I don't know. What do you think?

VIRGINIA
 (thinks, then)
 I always liked Hope.

JIMMY
 Then, Hope it is.

They sit for beat. The camera starts to very slowly pull out and continues to do so during the following. The Loggins Messina version of Danny's song starts to play.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
 I saw that girl at the bus stop again.

VIRGINIA
 The waitress?

JIMMY
 Yeah.

BURT
 How did she look?

JIMMY
 Great.

VIRGINIA
 You need to grow a pair and take a serious run at that. We could use another woman around here to help us keep this baby alive.

JIMMY
 She thinks I'm a homeless kidnapper.

BURT
 Well, think how happy she'll be when she finds out you're normal.

As the sun comes up over the house the music continues to play and Maw Maw hurries out of the house in her bra and pants. She runs down the street.

JIMMY
 I got her.

Jimmy starts after her, passing Mike sleeping in his tent in the front yard as he goes. A newspaper is thrown onto sidewalk from a passing car. On the front page is a picture of Lucy with the headline, "Execution Botched. Lawyers vow to get client released."

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW